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WORSBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

(Yorks.)



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1946.

WOMBWELL

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WORSBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

To the Worsborough Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting in the following pages the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your area for the year of 1946.

The year has been one of steady rather than spectacular progress, but nevertheless progress has been made. Many desirable improvements, particularly in the homes of the people, just cannot be obtained because of the difficulty in labour and materials.

Your obedient servant,

JEAN H. RITCHIE, M.B., Ch.B.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area	3420 acres
Census figures, 1931	12,490
Register General's Estimate 1946 ...	13,430
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	3,722
Rateable value	£44,784
Net product of a penny rate ...	£171

The majority of the male inhabitants of the district are coal miners and are employed at either the one colliery in the district or the many other Collieries surrounding it.

There is at present no employment for female labour within the district and this labour is consequently obliged to travel to other areas. I am very pleased to report, however, that the Council's policy of encouraging industry has resulted in one Leicester firm of silk hosiery manufacturers purchasing land and depositing plans for the erection of a fine modern factory which it is expected will be completed before the end of 1947. The firm have already converted a former A.R.P. Decontamination Centre into a training centre where about 30 girls are being formed into a nucleus of trained personnel for the new factory.

Vital Statistics. — Live Births.

	M	F	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	155	114	269
Illegitimate ...	8	8	16
Totals	163	122	285

The number of live births is greater than last year but the increased population causes the Birth Rate to be slightly lower than last year. The 285 births give a Birth Rate of 21·22 per 1,000 civilian population which is higher than the rate for England and Wales (19·1). This is most satisfactory.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was again 10 as last year and gives an Infantile Death Rate of 35·08, a reduction on last year's figure and well below the figure of 43·0 for England and Wales.

Still Births.

	M	F	Total
Still Births—Legitimate ...	6	6	12
Illegitimate ...	0	1	1
Totals	6	7	13

Birth Rate (live and still) per 1,000 of the estimated population 9·16.

Deaths.

	M	F	Total
Deaths	58	65	123

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9·16.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :		
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Puerperal causes	1	3·35
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :		
All Infants per 1,000 live births		35·08
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births		35·08
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births		—

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—
Rate per 1,000 population	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	**Nil**
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17

Deaths in Age Groups.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	7	3	10
1—5 years	0	1	1
5—10 ,, ...	0	0	0
10—15 ,, ...	1	0	1
15—20 ,, ...	1	1	2
20—25 ,, ...	0	0	0
25—35 ,, ...	2	1	3
35—45 ,, ...	4	4	8
45—55 ,, ...	4	4	8
55—65 ,, ...	3	10	13
65—70 ,, ...	8	5	13
70—75 ,, ...	8	10	18
75—80 ,, ...	13	11	24
80—85 ,, ...	6	12	18
85—90 ,, ...	0	1	1
90 and over	1	2	3
Totals	58	65	123

Death Rate.

The death rate for the district was 9·16 per 1,000 population, and is very satisfactory. The death rate for England and Wales was 11·5 per 1.000.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

The following table shows the infantile rates for the past 12 years.

1935 ...	53·23	1941 ...	70·70
1936 ...	51·02	1942 ...	56·91
1937 ...	69·85	1943 ...	62·28
1938 ...	53·94	1944 ...	66·22
1939 ...	63.29	1945 ...	35·58
1940 ...	59·47	1946 ...	35·08

The number of infantile deaths, i.e., deaths of infants under one year of age during 1946 was 10.

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN 1946.

Nett deaths from stated causes under one year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0	...	2	1	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis & Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	0
Other Causes	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	3
Totals ...	4	1	...	...	5	...	3	2	...	10

Deaths of Children under 2 years of age from Enteritis and Diarrhoea.

No child under two years of age died from Enteritis.

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

The Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (i.e., the mortality rate during the first month of life) for 1946 was 17·55 per 1,000 registered live births. The corresponding figure last year was 24·82.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Males	Females
All Causes		58	65
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers		—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever		—	—
3. Scarlet Fever		—	—
4. Whooping Cough		—	1
5. Diphtheria		—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...		—	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis		1	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases		—	—
9. Influenza		1	—
10. Measles		—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis		—	—
12. Acute infantile encephalitis		—	—
13. Cancer of buc: cav: and œsoph: (M) uterus (F)		—	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...		2	—
15. Cancer of breast		—	1
16. Cancer of all other sites		5	6
17. Diabetes		1	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions		4	12
19. Heart Disease		20	14
20. Other diseases of circulatory system ...		3	2
21. Bronchitis		1	—
22. Pneumonia		5	3
23. Other respiratory diseases		2	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum		—	—
25. Diarrhoea, under 2 years		—	—
26. Appendicitis		—	—
27. Other digestive diseases		1	2
28. Nephritis		—	4
29. Puerperal and post-abortion; sepsis ...		—	—
30. Other maternal causes		—	1
31. Premature birth		3	—
32. Cong mal: birth inj: infant: dis: ...		2	1
33. Suicide		1	2
34. Road traffic accidents		1	—
35. Other violent causes		—	—
36. All other causes		5	7
Live Births	Total	163	122
	Legitimate	155	114
	Illegitimate	8	8
Still Births	Total	6	7
	Legitimate	6	6
	Illegitimate	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	7	3
	Legitimate	7	3
	Illegitimate	—	—
Population (Resident)		13,430	
Comparability Factor		Not available for 1946	

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	WORSBRO' U.D.C.	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and great towns including London	148 smaller towns, resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adminis. County
	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Births :					
Live	21·22	19·1	22·2	21·3	21·5
Still	0·97	0·53	0·67	0·59	0·54
Deaths :					
All causes ...	9·16	11·5	12·7	11·7	12·7
Typhoid and para-typhoid fever ...	—	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	—	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·08	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·02
Diphtheria ...	—	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Influenza	0·08	0·15	0·13	0·14	0·12
Smallpox	—	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Measles	—	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·01
Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever ...	0·07	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0·15	0·05	0·05	0·04	0·06
Scarlet Fever ...	2·83	1·38	1·51	1·33	1·42
Whooping Cough	6·77	2·28	2·48	2·05	2·22
Diphtheria ...	0·74	0·28	0·32	0·31	0·24
Erysipelas ...	0·82	0·22	0·25	0·22	0·27
Smallpox	—	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles	0·22	3·92	4·73	3·70	7·35
Pneumonia ...	1·79	0·89	1·02	0·74	0·75
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	35	43	46	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	—	4·4	6·1	2·8	4·5
	Rate per 1000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0·18	Not available		
Others	3·35	1·06			
Total	3·35	1·24			
Notifications:					
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia	3·35	8·50	10·35	7·63	9·68

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time) : Dr. Jean H. Ritchie, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector : Lyndon Dove, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Certificated Inspector of Meat and other foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : Philip Briscoe, Cert. S.I.B., Certificated Inspector of Meat and other foods. (from 1st August, 1946, after discharge from H.M. Forces).

Pupil Assistant : Roger E. Hooson.

Clerk : Marian Ollerton.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are the same as last year. The examination of sputum, swabs, and other pathological specimens is carried out at the County Laboratory, Wakefield. The County Council also examine samples of milk for tubercle bacilli and bacteriological content.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act are analysed by the Public Analyst at Bradford at the expense of the County Council. In the event of any of the latter samples being adulterated proceedings are instituted at the discretion of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provide an Austin ambulance for the conveyance of accident and non-infectious cases to hospital. A charge is made to residents of 6d. per mile for the use of the ambulance. Non residents are charged 10/6 turn-out fee, plus 1/6 per mile.

The Council are members of the "Sheffield and District Ambulance Services" a scheme whereby any of the sixteen constituent authorities may obtain the services of another ambulance if their own is either out of commission or already in use.

During the year 1,234 journeys were made by our ambulance.

The removal of infectious cases is carried out by the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board of which the Council is a member.

Nursing in the Home.

This is mainly carried out by the "Cooper and Worsborough District Nursing Association" which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

The Association employs one nurse and provides skilled nursing for those who are unable to employ a private nurse. Nursing is also provided free to non-subscribers at the discretion of the Executive Committee in cases of necessity.

Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Services.

The West Riding County Council is the authority concerned and provides a Child Welfare Centre at each of the following Centres : Worsborough Bridge, Worsborough Dale, Birdwell and Blacker Hill.

All these clinics are very well attended and are doing good work.

Two Health Visitors are employed and these also carry out School Medical Inspections.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held at the centres below on the days shewn :

Worsborough Bridge, Worsborough Dale - Alternate Tuesday afternoons.

Birdwell - Fortnightly, Friday afternoons.

Hospitals.

(1) General Infectious Diseases.

The Wath Wood Isolation Hospital is for the reception and treatment of ordinary infectious diseases and is a very fine hospital for the purpose. It is owned and maintained jointly by the Wath-on-Dearne, Swinton, Dearne,Hoyland, and Worsborough Urban Districts and also the Rotherham Rural District Council. The latter authority sending patients from the northern part of their district. The hospital is controlled by the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board which is composed of members from the authorities named.

By arrangement with Rawmarsh, Swallownest and Wath Wood, the joint hospital at Brampton-en-le-Morthen is available for the treatment of smallpox cases.

(2) Voluntary Hospitals.

The hospitals mainly used by the inhabitants of the district for accidents and general diseases are :

(a) Barnsley Beckett Hospital
(b) Barnsley St. Helen Hospital
(c) Sheffield Royal Infirmary
(d) Sheffield Royal Hospital
(e) Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield.

The Council have no arrangement with any of the above hospitals for the admission of patients.

(3) Public Assistance Hospitals.

(a) St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

Midwifery Service.

Four trained midwives in the employ of the West Riding County Council carry on the main midwifery practice in the district.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council purchase the water in bulk from the Barnsley Corporation and re-distribute it to the district.

The following is a copy of the Analysts Report on a recent sample :

	Parts per 100,000
Total solids dried at 180° C.	7·65
Chlorides in terms of Chlorine	1·15
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	1·90
Nitrates	Absent
Nitrates as Nitrogen	0·08
Poisonous metals (lead etc.)	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F ...	0·044
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·0014
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·0040
Free Chlorine parts per million - trace, less than	0·05
P.H. value	6·8
Calculated Hardness—Temporary ...	1·1
Permanent ...	3·1
	4·2

There are thirteen houses in the district without a main supply. All the houses are in outlying districts and nine of them rely on well water which bacteriological examination has shewn to be satisfactory. A further two of the cottages belong to the London & North Eastern Railway Company and have their supply delivered daily in large milk churns. Another two belonging to an adjacent Colliery Company obtain their supply from the Colliery Company. This is not a satisfactory arrangement but the houses are in very poor structural condition and will be the subject of procedure under the Housing Act as soon as conditions permit.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The work of laying a complete new 24" main outfall sewer on the south side of West Street was completed during the year.

The sewer was laid to replace the existing badly defective sewer and was carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Councils Engineer and Surveyor. It cost £5200 and was 600 yards in length.

The Council are to be complimented on tackling a big job in the decisive manner they did rather than by further "patching up."

Closet Accommodation.

A survey of the district was taken early in the year to ascertain the exact number of privy middens and waste water closets and the figures given below are accurate.

One privy midden serving Nos. 9 to 15 Vernon Street, Birdwell, was converted into 2 waterclosets after service of legal notice. The cost of the conversion was £64/10/0 of which the Council paid half in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences of all types :

Privy middens	82
Waste water closets	56
Pail Closets	6
Water closets (approx.)	3050

Public Cleansing.

The work of house scavenging is carried out under the control of the Sanitary Inspector and throughout the year a weekly collection of bins and a fortnightly emptying of ashpits has been maintained.

Two properly designed vehicles are used for the purpose, a 10 cub. yard Dennis, and a 7 cub. yard Karrier Bantam and a good service has been provided in a district where the yield of house refuse is very high.

The abolition of the few remaining ashpits is rendered very difficult owing to the scarcity of dustbins.

There were approximately 3623 dustbins, 75 ashpits and 82 privy middens in the district at 31st December.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Inspections and Disinfections ...	78	
Further enquiries	4	
Schools disinfected	1	
Other disinfections	0	
Miscellaneous visits	12	
Scabies visits	9	
	——	104

Cowsheds and Food.

Cowsheds and Dairies	136	
Milk Samples	24	
Meat Inspections	261	
Bakehouses	2	
Ice Cream Premises	6	
Food Inspections	12	
Water Samples	1	
Slaughterhouse Inspections ...	47	
	——	489

Housing.

Houses inspected for defects ...	162	
Re-visits	20	
General Surveys	14	
Council Houses	24	
Overcrowding Survey visits ...	1736	
P.H.A. inspections	35	
	——	1991

Offensive Trades.

Fried Fish Shops	18	
		18

Sanitary Matters.

Investigation of Complaints ...	116	
Re-visits to Complaints	124	
Nuisances	51	
Verminous Premises	27	
Privies	30	
Drains Tested	37	
Piggery Inspections	12	
Rat Infestation Visits	97	
Works in Progress	35	
Sewer Inspections	12	
Sewage Plant Inspections	2	
Ducket closet inspections	138	
		681

Scavenging.

Refuse Tips	24	
Ashpits	55	
Supervision of men	6	
		85

Miscellaneous

Colliery spoilbanks	1	
Factory inspections	3	
Smoke Observations	0	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	6	
Petroleum Acts Inspections ...	0	
Shops Act Inspections	23	
Miscellaneous Journeys	424	
Interviews and Appointments ...	388	
Schools	2	
		847
		4215

Number of Informal Notices served (Public Health Act)	157
Number of Informal Notices served (Housing Act)	15

Number of Statutory Notices served (Public Health Act)	5
Number of Statutory Notices served (Housing Act Sec. 9)	4
Number of Nuisances reported to Public Health Committee ...	130
Number of Nuisances abated	123
Number of Nuisances outstanding at year end	7

Shops Act.

The greater proportion of shops in the district are of the small house shop type and no action was necessary during the year. One lock-up shop was re-opened and was granted an exemption under Section 10 (6) from providing sanitary conveniences. Suitable and sufficient accommodation was readily available.

Camping Sites.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

During the year it was discovered that a van had been placed on the very edge of our boundary in a field in Highstone Lane, Ward Green. The van was a converted parcels van and totally unsuitable. The occupier, a young man, was begging water from houses in Highstone Lane, and theoretically was allowed the use of an outside W.C. There were no facilities whatever, and the occupier was interviewed and advised to leave. The matter was reported to the Council and statutory notice was served both on the occupier of the van and the owner of the land and the van was removed.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken during the year.

Several complaints were made by tenants in Dearne Terrace, West Street, Worsborough Bridge, alleging the emission of grit by a mobile tarmacadam plant situate in the L.N.E.R. Goods Yard, West Street.

The machine had been originally stationed there temporarily to carry out a contract for the West Riding County Council but as further local contracts were secured the period became extended.

Statutory notice was served on the owners, who then requested the Council to delay action as they were negotiating for a more suitable site, and in the meantime they would instal a grit arrester. The Council agreed to this, and eventually the plant was moved to another site and no nuisance has since arisen.

Colliery Spoilbanks.

There is only one colliery spoilbank in the area, the one in connection with the Barrow Colliery. Early in the year this became ignited again and notice was served on the Colliery Company under the Public Health Act, 1936 and the nuisance was quickly abated and gave no further cause for complaint during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year reports were made on four Council houses found to infested with bed bugs. All the houses were sprayed with insecticide containing D.D.T. and subsequent inspections shewed the houses to be free of vermin.

There is no doubt that D.D.T. is a very effective method of dealing with the problem of the bed bug, and the treatment of infested property has been greatly simplified by its use.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Fourteen premises are registered for fish frying and all are kept under supervision.

SECTION D.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 197

 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 231

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1942 —

 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose —

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 162

(2) Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 154

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

 (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 4

 (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

 (a) By owners 4

 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

 (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(a) By owners 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—

(1) Number of representations etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation —

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition or Clearance Orders ... —

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 5

(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 39

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 98

Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become over-crowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

During the year 5 official samples of milk were taken from retailers under the Food & Drugs Act and submitted to the Public Analyst at Bradford. All were genuine milks.

There are 22 registered milk producers in the area and licences have been granted by the County Council for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk of two of the farms and for "Accredited Milk" at four of the farms concerned.

The County Council take samples at the premises licensed to produce designated milks and during the year submitted reports on 29 samples of which 2 failed to satisfy the methylene blue test.

19 samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector at the ordinary milk producers premises, 4 of which proved to be unsatisfactory according to the methylene blue test. 3 of the 4 samples were from one farm and after attendance at two milkings and the correction of minor faults satisfactory result was obtained.

Meat Inspection.

The whole of the butchers' meat supply is still being slaughtered at the Barnsley Abattoir and is received at one of our slaughterhouses for allocation to the various butchers.

Details of animals slaughtered and food condemned will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's portion of the Report.

Ice Cream Premises.

There are two premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture of ice cream, but only one of these is in use, the other not having re-opened since the war.

The premises in use are at Birdwell and are up-to-date and entirely satisfactory. The mixture is pasteurised before freezing and strict cleanliness is observed.

A sample taken immediately following the Aberystwith food poisoning outbreak shewed the product to contain non-faecal B.coli in a 1 in 10 dilution of 1 cc., but none in a 1 in 100 dilution.

An application was received from the occupier of a Council house for registration of his premises for the storage of ice cream, prior to selling it from a barrow. The person concerned admitted that in bad weather he would have to sell it from the premises and the Council refused the application.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Lyndon Dove, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.)

for the Year 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Worsborough Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on work done by my Department.

The additional Sanitary Inspector, Philip Briscoe was demobilised from H.M. Forces during the year and returned to duty on 1st August. I am sorry to say, however, that he did not remain with the Council very long, but left to take up another appointment on December 31st. This was very unfortunate as the additional assistance made a great deal of difference in the work we were able to do.

The greatest difficulty being experienced by Sanitary Officers today is the shortage of materials which renders the work of even essential repairs to house property a long and annoying business. Generally speaking, the public appreciate this, and are fairly patient.

During the year we commenced an overcrowding survey of the district so that I should be in a position to furnish the Council with reliable and up-to-date information to assist in the letting of their first post war houses. Fuller details of this survey, which was not completed until 1947, will be given in next year's Report but in the meantime it will be of interest to record that at 31st March, 1947 we had 85 cases of overcrowding according to the standard laid down by the Housing Act, 1936; another interesting feature of the survey was the overcrowding, and "undercrowding" which had come about in the Council's own houses with the passage of time since the original lettings. As a result of

this survey the Council appealed to all their tenants to agree to exchange of houses and the response to this appeal was magnificent and many bad cases were overcome without a single new house being built.

Meat Inspection

The district's meat supply is obtained from the Barnsley Corporation's Abattoir under the Ministry's scheme for centralisation, and no butchers' meat is slaughtered within the district. Frequent visits are paid to the slaughterhouse in the district at which the meat is received for allocation to the butchers and it was not found necessary to condemn any of the meat sent into those premises. There are, however, strong grounds for complaint against the poor quality of some of the imported meat being sent into the district. I know that this is by no means a complaint locallised to this district, but the condition of some of this meat clearly demonstrates the bad handling it has received in the various stages of its transport from ship to the local butcher, and stricter supervision of, and more careful attention in, its handling is necessary.

The slaughtering of cottagers' pigs continues to flourish, and 243 carcases were inspected. Slaughtering of pigs for home consumption has increased far beyond the bounds envisaged at the time the Ministry issued their circular allowing an occasional pig to be slaughtered on the premises of the pig keeper, and I consider that there should be stricter control and that all animals should be slaughtered at suitable licensed premises in accordance with the Public Health Meat Regulations. This would also overcome the present highly unsatisfactory position whereby these pigs are not subject to inspection after slaughter, nor is there any legal right to condemn any meat however dangerous its consumption might be, merely because it is not slaughtered for "sale". I must admit that I have not experienced any objection to either inspection or condemnation, but I do know of a nearby authority where the owner of a pig suffering from Generalised Tuberculosis refused to surrender it and presumably it was eaten by his own family at least.

It was necessary to condemn the following for the reasons given :—

14 pigs heads - Tuberculosis.
3 Plucks - Tuberculosis.
6 Mesenteric fats - Tuberculosis.
2 sets Lungs - Tuberculosis.
1 Liver - Tuberculosis.
1 set Lungs - Pneumonia.
1 Liver - Cirrhosis.

One calf for home consumption was slaughtered by a farmer under licence from the Local Food Executive Officer and was passed for food.

There was one emergency slaughter, a sheep which had been savaged by a dog, and it was found necessary to condemn one shoulder and one leg of the mutton. The carcase had set perfectly and the remainder was passed.

Various requests were received from shopkeepers to inspect foods other than meat and the following were condemned :

14 dozen imported eggs - Rotten.
33½ lbs. Bacon - Decomposition.
2 lbs. Yeast - Mouldy.
1 case Oranges - Decomposition.

Milk.

Five official samples of milk were taken from retailers in course of delivery under the Food and Drugs Act and submitted to the Public Analyst at Bradford. All were reported on as genuine.

19 samples of ordinary milk were taken at farm premises and submitted to the County Council laboratory for bacteriological examination. Four of these samples failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. Three of the four unsatisfactory samples were from one farm and after I had attended two milkings and suggested minor alterations in procedure a satisfactory sample was obtained.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Special attention was given to inspection of these premises and a total of 136 inspections were made.

The standard of premises is good generally speaking, and it was not necessary to serve any notices during the year.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

The Council have made bye-laws under the Public Health Act for the regulation of the trade of fish frying and there are 14 such premises in the area.

Notice was served on one occupier to repaint the walls of his premises.

Housing.

The normal systematic inspection of houses has had to be more or less abandoned owing to the suspension of demolition procedure, the housing shortage, and the restrictions on repairs other than those of extreme urgency. The carrying out of essential repairs has always been insisted upon but there will be a lot of housing work to be done when supplies become better.

In view of the housing shortage, a survey was made of all empty houses in the district with the possibility in mind of their being utilised for a limited period as housing accommodation. The survey revealed 20 empty houses, the majority of them being condemned, but it was found that their original unfit condition had become worse. One house, No. 190 High Street, Worsborough Dale, which had formerly been a house and shop but had been disused for years, did offer possibilities. A list of alterations and improvements, including the provision of a hot water supply and bathroom, was drawn up, the Council requisitioned the house and the improvements were carried out by direct labour at a cost of £170. The result was a good three bedroomed house which accommodated an already overcrowded family.

Overcrowding.

Five serious cases of overcrowding were reported by me to the Public Health Committee and the Housing Manager, who is responsible for the re-letting of Council houses was asked to note the circumstances. Four of the cases have since been given Council houses.

Privies.

A complete survey of the district was made during the year and a comprehensive report submitted to the Public Health Committee which shewed that we have 83 privies in the area, the majority of these being in outlying country districts and not capable of efficient conversion owing to the fact that no sewer is available. All the privies are in a satisfactory state of repair and could not be dealt with under Section 44 of the Public Health Act which means the Council would have to pay half the cost of conversions.

Two privies serving Nos. 9, 11, 13 and 15 Vernon Street, Birdwell were converted at a cost of £64/10/0. The Council served legal notice under Section 47 and recovered half the cost from the owner. It is a great pity that these conversions did not proceed at a time when the average cost was nearer £10 per closet, as the present costs are practically prohibitive to Council and owner alike.

Rodent Control.

The Council continued to carry out rodent destruction in accordance with recommendations of the Ministry of Food, and a full time operative was employed on the basis of the Private Dwellings Scheme contained in Circular N.S.12. A complete rodent survey was made and all premises found to be infested were treated.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out, and the sewage works are kept under control by the foreman who has received training in the Ministry's methods.

Verminous Premises.

Every assistance is given to householders in dealing with bed bugs, and twelve premises were sprayed with Zaldecide/D.D.T. and the results were excellent.

In addition, five other badly infested houses were dealt with and the occupiers called upon to bear the expenses in four cases, and the owner in the other case.

A complaint was made alleging bug infestation from an adjoining house. The tenant of the adjoining house, an eccentric elderly woman, refused all my attempts to gain admission, nor did approach to her family secure the necessary permission. The Council were reluctantly compelled to finally instruct me to apply to Court for a

Magistrate's Order to enter the house, if need be, by force, and this Order was obtained and carried out with the co-operation of the police. The woman could have saved herself a great deal of inconvenience, and the Department a great deal of trouble, as inspection revealed no trace of vermin.

Complaint was also made by neighbours that an old man living in Thomas Street, Worsborough Bridge was afflicted with body lice. An inspection of his house, clothing and bedding was made and it was found that the complaints were justified. The man agreed to go into an Institution for treatment and arrangements were made with Barnsley Corporation for the steam disinfestation of his clothing and bedding. The house was also treated in his three day's absence, and subsequent visits shewed that the infestation was cleared up satisfactorily.

House Scavenging.

The Council have every reason to be satisfied with this service which has operated with little or no complaint during the past year. A seven day collection of dustbins has been maintained except for unavoidable short periods following holidays, but even then the work has been quickly recovered by slight reorganisation and the interest of the men. Ashpits and privy middens are on a fortnightly collection which is quite satisfactory.

Two modern refuse vehicles are employed, one being a 10 cub. yd. body and the other 7 cub. yd. The vehicles are well cared for, each body interior being cleaned out and painted with used engine oil each week, and each vehicle also stands in one day per month for minor adjustments and chassis greasing. The vehicles are repainted each Autumn and this policy has shewn ample reward in the high standard of efficiency and appearance maintained.

The Council so far have not acceded to my requests to engage a man full-time on tip control with the result that although the tips are not causing a nuisance, it is very difficult at times to prevent them becoming eyesores. The selection of tippings sites has also not been very good as the two main tips are proceeding at depths which are too great and yet access to the lower ground level is barred. The tips are baited once each month to keep them free from rats.

Your obedient servant,

LYNDON DOVE, Cert. S.I.B. M.S.I.A.